



# GUIDON



Vol. I No. 2

Quarterly Magazine of the Texas State Guard

Spring 2011



## BG Rodriguez Takes Command of TXSG Army Component

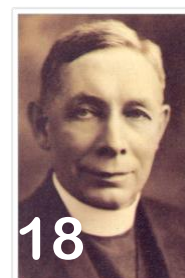
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# THE GUIDON

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## On the Cover

MG Raymond Peters (right) Commanding General of the TXSG hands the guidon to BG Manuel Rodriguez (left), new Commander of the TXSG Army Component.

Photo by SSG Timothy Pruitt

# BG Rodriguez Takes Command, Praises BG Ortiz for Putting TXSG Soldiers First

**Story by MAJ Michael Quinn Sullivan  
Army Component Public Affairs Officer**

CAMP MABRY, AUSTIN, Texas - A new commander of the Texas State Guard's army component took charge today as the state's defense support soldiers expressed gratitude to retiring Brigadier General Victor Ortiz.

Serving as Deputy Commander (Army) of the Texas State Guard since 2006, BG Ortiz said he was proud of the achievements of the men and women he has served alongside.

"They have truly exemplified the spirit of Texas," said BG Ortiz. "It has been an absolute honor serving with them. This is what our country is all about."

More than 2,000 men and women actively serve in the Texas State Guard, with two-thirds of them in the Army component. The other sections of the Texas State Guard are the Air Division, Maritime Regiment and Medical Brigade. The TXSG, commanded by Major General Ray Peters, is part of the Texas Military Forces, which includes the Army National Guard and Air National Guard.

After retiring from the United States Army National Guard, BG Ortiz entered the Texas State Guard in August of 2005 as commander of the 1st Civil Affairs Regiment. His entry was a baptism by hurricane; Katrina hit on Sept. 8, 2005, resulting in the largest activation of the TXSG in modern history.

Having been commissioned into the Army in 1969, BG Ortiz served in Vietnam as a fire direction officer and executive officer. He entered the Texas Army National Guard in 1979, holding numerous leadership positions, including Commander of the Joint Task Force Safe Boarder (Military Observer Mission Ecuador and Peru) and Commander 49th Armored Division Artillery.

BG Ortiz described the Texas State Guard as "a great way to serve your community." BG Ortiz works

as a volunteer with the Employer Support for the Guard and Reserve. He and his wife Martha have two grown sons, and two grandchildren.

Replacing BG Ortiz as the Deputy Commander (Army) is Colonel Manuel Rodriguez, recently confirmed as a Brigadier General by the Texas Senate. Retired from the United States Army, BG Rodriguez – like BG Ortiz – was introduced to the Texas State Guard by a friend.

"I couldn't believe what I saw," said BG Rodriguez of his first visit to a training weekend. "The men and

women serving in the state guard ask for nothing, but give a whole lot to Texas, and want to do the right thing. I had to be a part of that."

He joined in March 2006, serving first as commander of the 2nd Civil Affairs Regiment, and later as the headquarters personnel officer.

BG Rodriguez was commissioned in 1983 upon graduation from the University of Southern Mississippi, and his first posting was to Fort Hood. During his career, the Army has sent him to Germany, Bosnia, Iraq and Afghanistan, among other assignments. Primarily an intelligence officer, BG Rodriguez retired from active duty in 2005. He and his wife own a ranch outside Copperas Cove. He has a college-age son, two grown

daughters and a granddaughter.

BG Rodriguez said he was honored to take command from BG Ortiz. "He has led with his heart, putting the soldiers first in everything he has done," said BG Rodriguez. "I look forward to building on his successful work."

MG Peters, presiding over Sunday's ceremony at Camp Mabry, said both BG Ortiz and BG Rodriguez represent the kind of strong, hands-on leadership the state guard has been cultivating.

"As we continue to grow and mature organizationally, BG Rodriguez's emphasis on training will enhance the esprit de corps that BG Ortiz has embodied."



*Mrs. Teresa Rodriguez pins the Brigadier General's star on her husband, BG Manuel Rodriguez at the ceremony as MG Peters looks on.  
Photo by SSG Timothy Pruitt*

**Leadership Message****NCOs Help Prepare Troops for AT and Deployment**

TXSG Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, and Marines:

I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank each and every one of you for your outstanding selfless service. I would also challenge you to continue to train and grow as a military professional increasing your value to our organization and the citizens of our state.



The focus of this GUIDON issue is on annual training and being prepared to get the most benefit out of this opportunity. It is a primary responsibility of senior leadership and their staff to provide a platform for pertinent and meaningful training. It is the personal responsibility of individual members to be prepared and ready to get the most out of the training offered.

In addition, it is the responsibility of NCOs to ensure the preparedness and readiness of the enlisted troops they lead. The enlisted force carries out the mission. We are the “doers” so we need to continually enhance our skill sets, and this annual event is an important part of our overall training.

It is incumbent on NCO's to ensure this training is conducted in a safe manner. Use the NCO chain to report all potential safety hazards or correct them on the spot if possible. The most common, recurring safety hazard at annual training is dehydration so make sure your troops stay well hydrated in the rather warm climate of Camp Bowie.

NCOs maintain good order, discipline, and professionalism of the enlisted force. We will be sharing Camp Bowie with other Texas Military Forces units this summer so we need to put our best foot forward and demonstrate how good we are.

Remember the “little things” (neat uniform, hats on outdoors, saluting, etc.) that are the cornerstone of good order and discipline. Enlisted members should always remember to use their NCO chain. Whether it is a concern, a safety issue, illness, a problem back home, or a recommendation for training improvement, seek the advice and guidance of your NCO.

I hope to see you all at annual training where we will gain valuable knowledge in a safe and professional environment. Until then remember that we are “Texans serving Texas” and we are always “Equal to the Task”.

Harold L. Higgins, Jr.  
Command Chief Master Sergeant  
Senior Enlisted Leader—Texas State Guard

**THE GUIDON**

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# Maj Gen Nichols Takes Command As 51st Adjutant General of TXMF

Story by CMSgt Gonda Moncada  
Texas Military Forces Public Affairs

AUSTIN, Texas –The Texas Military Forces officially welcomed the 51st Adjutant General during a change-of-command ceremony on the Camp Mabry Parade Grounds, Saturday, March 12.

Major General Jose S. Mayorga, The Adjutant General, relinquished command of the Texas Military Forces to Major General John F. Nichols during the traditional flag ceremony. The flag ceremony signifies the handing over of all duties and responsibilities to the new commander and represents the ever-present and constant authority in a changing chain of command. U.S. Sen. John Cornyn presided over the event and presented awards to MG Mayorga and Mrs. Mayorga while thanking both for their unwavering patriotism.

"General Mayorga," he said, "every Texan owes you their gratitude for your leadership as Commander of the Texas Military Forces. Over the last two years, Soldiers and Airmen under your command have provided more than 160,000 man-days of Defense Support to Civil Authorities here in Texas.

Those efforts include fire suppression assistance, hurricane and flood response; and management of emergency shelters. They also include Operation Lone Star; in which our Soldiers and Airmen have provided free medical services to 13,000 Texans in the Rio Grande Valley who have limited access to health care. You have successfully deployed more than 7,000 troops to support operations in the Global War on Terrorism. You have prepared your troops for combat missions more quickly; shortened periods of mobilization – so that our troops can return to their families and jobs much sooner; and helped win national recognition for the Texas Military Forces through the Army's Communities of Excellence Program. General Mayorga: we thank you and your wife Maria for your years of service to our state and nation."

Senator Cornyn next addressed the incoming Adjutant General, when he said: "General Nichols, thank you for accepting the high honor and responsibility of being the 51st Commander of the Texas Military Forces. You and I now have something in common: We both hold positions first occupied by the great Sam Houston. You have my commitment to continue to fight for whatever you need to ensure that our Texas Military Forces remain a credit to our state – and a contributor to our national security. We thank you and your wife Denise for your continued service to our country."

He concluded with the words: "May every Texan always be mindful of those who defend our freedom."

The Adjutant General of Texas is responsible for



*On March 12, 2011 United States Senator John Cornyn passes the flag to Major General John F. Nichols making him the new Adjutant General of the TXMF.*

*Photo SSgt Eric Wilson*

leading more than 24,000 members of the Texas Military Forces, which includes the Texas Army National Guard, the Texas Air National Guard, the Texas State Guard and civilian employees of the Adjutant General's Department. The Adjutant General is responsible for a joint federal-state program. Its federal mission is to provide combat-ready units and equipment in support of our na-

tional military strategy. State missions include providing units and equipment to protect life and property, to preserve peace and order, and to ensure public safety of the citizens of Texas under the direction of the Governor.

Maj Gen Nichols, a fighter pilot, started his career in the United States Air Force and received a bachelor's degree from the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colo. He graduated from Squadron Officer School, Air Command and Staff College, Air War College, and U. S. Air Force Fighter Weapons Instructor School. Maj Gen Nichols is married to the former Denise Tankersley. They have one daughter, Alexa Nichols. Maj Gen Nichols and his family reside in Spring Branch, Texas.

Letters from our readers

## TXSG Soldier Tells of Granddad's Service at Texas City Disaster

COL Hastings,  
I would just like to say how much I enjoyed the first issue of The Guidon and more importantly the reprint of the Texas City Disaster. I've been with the Texas State Guard since 1998, my father and grandfather served with the Texas Defense Force in 1947 at the Texas City explosion. My father, Thomas Helenberg, who at the time was only months before his 17<sup>th</sup> birthday, was assigned as an ambulance driver moving bodies from the disaster to make shift morgues. He told stories of how terrible the conditions were and how the guard was made up of either the really old or really young. Despite their age they pushed through the disaster for the citizens of this state. After the defense forces were disbanded in late '47, my father went on to serve with the United States Marine Corps during and after the Korean conflict. Even after his time as a Marine and until his death at 77 years old, he always spoke of his time with the Texas State Guard and the Texas City Disaster. Now as a third generation serving in the TXSG, I find myself telling my children about how it was during Katrina and Rita and how the Texas State Guard continues to help people in their time of need. I guess some things never change.

Thank You,

John M. Helenberg, CW4

### Editor's Note:

The GUIDON welcomes letters from TXSG members, family and friends for publication. Letters may be edited for length and clarity. Please include contact information. Send your letters to:

**Editor.Guidon@txsg.state.tx.us**



Three TXSG members currently working for NASA posed with the on-orbit STS-133 Shuttle Crew for a Team Picture Event during the fall of 2010. From Left to Right are: Col Alvin Drew (USAF Ret.), Michael Barratt, Col Steve Lindsey (USAF, Ret.), TSgt Jean Gill (TXSG), SMSgt Larry Carroll (TXSG), Lt Col Willie Williams (TXSG), Col Eric Boe (USAF), Nicole Stot and Col. Timothy Kopra (USA).

## Maj Gen Nichols Praises TXSG Efforts, Describes Work to Maintain Funding

**Story by COL Robert Morecook  
Med. Brig. Public Affairs Officer**

"There's no greater gift than giving back to your fellow Texans," said Major General John Nichols, Adjutant General of Texas, at the 52<sup>nd</sup> annual meeting of the National Guard Association of Texas (NGAT) in Corpus Christi on March 26, 2011. Maj Gen Nichols referred to the gifts of time and hard work that Texas State Guardsmen give during Texas disasters and the time spent training for them.

Maj Gen Nichols squeezed over an hour from his busy schedule to spend some personal time with Texas State Guardsmen attending

the NGAT conference. He related some of the successes he and his staff have had in defending and maintaining budget support for the TXSG during the difficult bi-annual budget process currently underway in the Legislature.

"We also got tuition assistance back in the budget -- a million dollars a year" Maj Gen Nichols said. He pointed out that National Guardsmen often used their GI bill benefits for training before tapping state tuition money, leaving a large part of it for the Texas State Guard to use. "Part of my job is telling the Legislature what fine work you do," he exclaimed.

Maj Gen Nichols also hinted at plans that the TXSG may soon become 'heavier'-- that is, having access to or owning more substantial supplies. "The next part of the plan is figuring out how we are going to get the TXSG equipped," concluded Maj Gen Nichols.





# Recruiters Talk Technology at R&R Workshop, Share Tips and Best Practices with their Peers

**Story by SSgt John Crowder  
Texas State Guard Public Affairs**

CAMP MABRY, Texas - It's been said that the Texas State Guard is one of the best kept secrets in Texas. But there is a group of dedicated men and women who are doing their best to make sure all Texans know about the service opportunities available in the TXSG.

Brigadier General Robert Bodisch, Commander of the Texas Maritime Regiment, addressed the semi-annual recruiters workshop at the Jan. 25 Unit Training Assembly. "Recruiters are the lifeblood of an organization," BG Bodisch began, "they must embody and symbolize the organization by presenting a lean, immaculate, well-spoken and professional military appearance at all times."

Commander Tim Milovich facilitated the recruiting workshop. "We use the workshop to share best practices with fellow recruiters," said CMDR Milovich. "At today's meeting, we had representatives from each organizational entity do a presentation on their recruiting practices - what works and what doesn't," he added.

Captain Joseph Conte from the 8<sup>th</sup> Regiment in Houston talked about the successes they've had with the GOTXSG.com recruiting web site. "The bulk of our recruiting leads have come from GOTXSG.com," CPT Conte said. "To date, we've had over 500 leads, and we've seen close to ten percent of those leads joining the TXSG," he continued.

Private First Class Brian O'Regan of the 4<sup>th</sup> Regiment has been a recruiter for only eight months. "This workshop was terrific," PFC O'Regan said. "I loved the way that it brought us together to share the 'best practices'



*COL Robert Hastings discusses Public Affairs with the TXSG Recruiters at the workshop. Photo by SSG Timothy Pruitt*

each unit has developed. I learned a lot today."

According to CMDR Milovich, the Texas Maritime Regiment (TMAR) does well in their recruiting efforts, noting that TMAR has some very active and rewarding drill activities. "The Medical Brigade and the 4<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Regiments also do well in their recruiting numbers," CMDR Milovich added.

"For me, the workshop was excellent," said Staff Sergeant Randy Martin of the 4<sup>th</sup> Air Wing. "I'm a new recruiter and this meeting gave me a lot of insight into all the paperwork and administrative requirements necessary when we submit a package for a new recruit. I got the chance today to put faces with names and regiments and to pick up tips from recruiters who have been doing this for a while," SSgt Martin remarked.

While there are no hard recruiting quotas, each organization entity sets targets for the number of recruits they believe will join their unit each calendar year.

"One of the challenges that recruiters face is getting the story out to the public about volunteer opportunities in the TXSG," said CPT Conte. Many of the leads generated by GOTXSG.com are from individuals looking for information about the Texas National Guard.

"Some of the leads that I get from GOTXSG.com want to serve in an Army or Maritime regiment," said SSgt Martin. "I put them in touch with the right unit in their area. Most prior-service recruits want to serve in the same branch as they did their active service," SSgt Martin continued.

"Our recruits come from a broad spectrum of the public; white collar, blue collar, professional, prior service and non-prior service," CPT Conte continued. "The TXSG is the perfect opportunity for anyone who wants to serve Texas in a traditional military capacity and be involved in homeland security."

BG Bodisch challenged the workshop attendees by reminding them, "Recruiting is a prestigious tour of duty and as an organization we should only offer up our best and brightest."



*TXSG Recruiters from across the state attended the annual workshop at Camp Mabry. Photo by SSG Timothy Pruitt*

# TXARNG Aviators Invite TXSG 436<sup>th</sup> ASG 'Family' to Share Their Dining Out Tradition

## 'Rough Riders' Recognize TXSG as an 'Integral Part' of Unit; Set a Place for 436<sup>th</sup> at Dining Out Table

**Story by SSgt John Crowder  
Texas State Guard Public Affairs**

ARLINGTON, Texas - The 2-149<sup>th</sup> General Support Aviation Battalion 'Rough Riders' of the Texas Army National Guard held their first Dining Out last Saturday (Feb. 12) at the Sheraton Hotel in Arlington. Invited guests included the Airmen and Officers of the 436<sup>th</sup> Air Support Group of the Texas State Guard.

"This Dining Out is our first since the transformation of the battalion," said Executive Officer Captain Randy Stillinger. "The timing of the event is good, since we will have elements of the Battalion deploying within the year. This is the only time we could get everyone together," CPT Stillinger continued.

Lieutenant Colonel Jim Nugent, Commander of the 2-149<sup>th</sup> GSAB, was the President of the Mess. "It was a real pleasure to have the 436<sup>th</sup> ASG join us at our Dining Out to celebrate the accomplishments of a great team," said LTC Nugent. "The Texas State Guard has been alongside us over the years, serving faithfully through good times and bad. I consider them an integral part of our unit. The contributions they make every IDT weekend, and throughout the year, have enabled the 2-149<sup>th</sup> GSAB to deliver world-class results," remarked LTC Nugent.

The dining-in is a traditional formal dinner for members of a military organization or unit. It provides an opportunity for members to meet socially at a formal military function to recognize individual or unit achievements. The



*L-R CPT Randy Stillinger, LTC Jim Nugent and 2LT John Manning share a laugh as LTC Nugent stirs the contents of the 'grog' bowl before beginning quality assurance testing on the contents.*

*Photo by DeLo Digital Photography*

dining-in is also effective in building and maintaining unit esprit de corps. It provides an atmosphere in which unit tradition, history, and accomplishments serve as a base for building and maintaining professional camaraderie.

An addition to this dining-in tradition is the dining-out. This dinner may be held at a civilian restaurant or in post facilities and is no different in fun or frolic from a dining-in; it usually includes spouses or guests, typically with a lighter menu, floral centerpieces on the table, and dancing. The event on Feb. 12<sup>th</sup> was a Dining Out since guests were invited.

It is believed that the practice of a dining-in dates back to the Roman Legions. Historians note that the Vikings also held formal ceremonies to honor and celebrate battles and heroes. With the advent of the officers' mess, the British military establishment adopted the custom. The close association and camaraderie between British and American military forces during World Wars I and II led to the United States Army's adoption of the dining-in as an integral part of the regimental mess.

Portions of the event tend to become quite humorous in nature, while others remain somber. Etiquette requires a diner to know what is appropriate at any given time. An elaborate list of Rules of the Mess is given to each diner. Breaking at least one rule is a given for everyone.

Violators of the mess are obliged to publicly drink from a grog bowl in front of the mess attendees. The grog is an exotic concoction contained in a gigantic bowl, consisting of various alcoholic beverages mixed together. Some of the ingredients of this grog included Jack Daniels Whiskey, Vodka, Gin, Monster energy drink, molasses, hot peppers, dirt from Iraq, Korean liqueur, Saki, beer, Buffalo Whisky (CMSgt Short provided this), Jet-A aviation fuel and a dirty sock from Command Sergeant Major Michael Garcia.

In addition to visiting the grog bowl, violators were sentenced to wear crowns, tiaras or extremely tacky eye glasses. Offenders were required to skip about the room, compose limericks and carry unusual items such as a gigantic baby pacifier or baby rattle.



*CMSgt James Short salutes the President of the Mess after adding a contribution to the 'grog' bowl.*

*Photo by DeLo Digital Photography*



In most cases, when a violator was identified, he or she was given the opportunity to provide a rebuttal or defense for the violation, which never resulted in being excused from the offense. Some members of the mess were also singled out for some good-natured ribbing and teasing.

CPT Stilling worked diligently on organizing this Dining Out. "One of the main benefits of the Dining Out is the camaraderie and esprit de corps that events like this build," CPT Stilling remarked.

But the evening had its somber moments. When the members of the mess were assembled Second Lieutenant John Manning, serving as Mr. Vice, called everyone's attention to the solitary place setting at a small table near him.

"As you entered the dining area this evening you may have noticed a small table in a place of honor near my table. It is set for one. The military caste is filled with symbolism. This table is our way of symbolizing the fact that members of our profession of arms are missing from our midst. They are commonly called, POW/MIA, we call them our brothers and sisters. They are unable to be with us this evening and so we remember them because of their incarceration."

"This table set for one is small, symbolizing the frailty of one prisoner alone against their oppressors. Remember!"

"The tablecloth is white, symbolizing the purity of their intentions to respond to their country's call to arms. Remember!"

"The single rose displayed in a vase reminds us of the families and loved ones of our comrades-in-arms who kept the faith awaiting their return. Remember!"

"The red ribbon tied so prominently on the vase is reminiscent of the red ribbon worn upon the lapel and breasts of thousands who bear witness to their unyielding determination to demand a proper accounting of our missing. Remember!"

"A slice of lemon is on the bread plate to remind us of their bitter fate. Remember!"

"There is salt upon the bread plate symbolic of the families' tears as they wait. Remember!"

"The glass is inverted, they cannot toast with us this night. Remember!"

"The chair--the chair is empty--they are not here. Remember!"

After the dinner, Specialist Arturo Martinez was awarded the Texas Medal of Merit for his heroic actions that saved four lives. SPC Martinez is also a Dallas Police

Officer. While on patrol, SPC Martinez and his partner followed the smell of smoke to a house that was on fire. SPC Martinez broke through a patio door and alerted the occupants to the fire. He carried one of three young children to safety and then re-entered the building to ensure no one was left inside.

As the evening drew to a close, LTC Nugent spoke extemporaneously about the volunteer Rough Riders from San Antonio and their devotion to duty in spite of tremendous hardships, lack of equipment and supplies. As a cavalry unit, the Rough Riders were without horses, as a lack of transportation required that they go into battle as an



LTC Jim Nugent presents SPC Arturo Martinez with the Texas Medal of Merit as SGM Michael Garcia (rear) looks on. SPC Martinez's actions saved the lives of a family of four from a fiery death while working as a Dallas Police Officer. Photo by DeLo Digital Photography

infantry unit. Future President Teddy Roosevelt was the Lieutenant Colonel in charge of the unit who led the assault on San Juan Hill. The 2-149th GSAB are known as the 'Rough Riders' in honor of those men who fought, died and overcame the enemy.

"I consider the TXSG to be one of the best-kept secrets of our team," LTC Nugent said. "Their coaching, guidance, and patriotism - and their willingness to continue shoulder responsibility and consistently contribute to a higher cause, represents the best in selfless service. I'm especially grateful for their participation in tactical exercises and recurring administrative duties; we've been able to benefit from the wealth of experience they bring from diverse careers and backgrounds," LTC Nugent continued.

Over 200 members and guests of the 2-149th GSAB attended the Dining Out. Eleven members of the 436th Air Support Group, accompanied by their guests, attended the dining-out. It afforded the TXSG members the opportunity to socialize with Soldiers of the 2-149th GSAB that they've worked with for over two years.

"We eagerly look forward to next year's event and will have plenty of seats at the table for our TXSG Brethren," LTC Nugent concluded.

*TXARNG and internet sources contributed to this article*

*A special Thank You to DeLo Digital Photography for their gracious use of photographs taken at the 2-149th GSAB Dining Out event—[www.delodigital.com](http://www.delodigital.com)*



Salt and lemon are powerful reminders from the POW/MIA Table. Photo by DeLo Digital Photography



Bottom left and working clockwise: State Rep. Dan Flynn (TMAR, CDR), MG John Nichols (TAG), BG Charles Miller, COL Patrick Hamilton, COL Don Prince, MG Ray Peters, at the Texas Capitol reflect on the House Resolution honoring the Texas State Guard.

# Texas House Honors TXSG on 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

**Story by SSgt John Crowder  
Texas State Guard Public Affairs**

AUSTIN, Texas - The Texas House of Representatives today (Feb. 10, 2011) honored the thousands of men and women who have served their fellow Texans for 70 years in the Texas State Guard.

House Resolution 570 commemorates and celebrates the seventieth anniversary of the Texas State Guard. Resolution 570 was introduced by Rep. Dan Flynn (R-Canton) who, along with eight other House members, currently serves in the Texas State Guard.

Joining Rep. Flynn at the Capitol were Major General John Nichols, Adjutant General for the State of Texas; Major General Peters, Commander of the Texas State Guard; Brigadier General Charles Miller, Chief of Staff of the Texas State Guard; Colonel Don Prince, Commander of the Texas State Guard Air Division and Colonel Hamilton, G3 for the Texas State Guard.



H.R. No. 570

## RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The Texas State Guard is celebrating the 70th anniversary of its founding in 1911; and

WHEREAS, Originally called the Texas Defense Guard, this branch of the Texas military forces was authorized by the Defense Act (House Bill 45), which was signed into law by Governor Pappy O'Daniel on February 10, 1941; created to take the place of the National Guard units being mobilized for the war effort, the Texas State Guard has since evolved into a rapidly deployable emergency action force that is ready to respond at a moment's notice to natural and man-made disasters; this capability is in keeping with its mandate to provide a mission-ready volunteer force for service to the Lone Star State; and

WHEREAS, The individual units of the Texas State Guard are the 4th and 5th Air Wings, the Maritime Regiment, the Texas Medical Brigade, and six regional regiments: The 1st, nicknamed the Alamo Guards, the 2nd, called the Austin Greys, the 4th, known as the Panther City Fencibles, the 8th, Terry's Texas Rangers, the 19th, Parson's Brigade, and the 39th, the Roughnecks; and

WHEREAS, The volunteer nature of the Texas State Guard makes it a highly cost-effective and efficient force; members serve in an unpaid capacity, unless called to active duty, and because they are locally based throughout the state they can respond to emergencies within two hours of notification; the valiant men and women who belong to the state guard together provide an estimated 40,000 days per year of uncompensated community service and disaster training; and

WHEREAS, For seven decades, the Texas State Guard has helped ensure the safety and well-being of the residents of the Lone Star State, and its long history of service, often rendered in demanding and dangerous conditions, is indeed deserving of recognition; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas Legislature hereby commemorate the 70th anniversary of the Texas State Guard and extend sincere gratitude to its members; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be prepared for the Texas State Guard as an expression of high regard by the Texas House of Representatives.

Flynn



69th Anniversary

# TMAR Remembers and Honors POWs Who Died in Bataan March

**Story by LT Dale Laine**

TMAR Public Affairs

AUSTIN, Texas - Commemorating the 69<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Bataan Death March, the Texas Maritime Regiment honored those prisoners of war with a march from Camp Mabry to the Texas Capitol and back on April 9, 2011.

"Freedom is not free," said Brigadier General Robert J. Bodisch on the steps of the state Capitol. The commanding officer of the Texas Maritime Regiment, Bodisch led nearly 100 members of TMAR on the 12-mile march.

"Today, 69 years to the day of the surrender, the Texas Maritime Regiment honors and remembers the sacrifices of those who became prisoners and those who perished" said Bodisch. "History reports that thousands of American and Filipino prisoners of war lost their lives at the hands of the Japanese Imperial Army while they marched the 66 miles to Prison Camp O'Donnell. These prisoners were shot, stabbed or beheaded simply for falling down, needing a drink of water to simply trying to help one another."

Guardsmen from the state's three TMAR battalions participated in the commemorative march. They were escorted on the march from Mabry by Austin police. Honking drivers passed the procession, shouting words of encouragement and thanks.

One little girl waved an American flag standing in her front yard, a visual reminder of the next generation of young Texans that TMAR members are proud to serve.

Upon arrival at the Capitol, TMAR guardsmen were greeted by family and friends before taking their place on the south steps of the Capitol.

There, BG Bodisch began the short ceremony by introducing State Representative and LCDR Tim Kleinschmidt and State Representative and LCDR Larry Gonzales. Both LDCR's Kleinschmidt and Gonzales told the assembled that they were honored to participate, and both completed the round trip

march.

The highlight of the day's events was the keynote address by State Representative and CDR Dan Flynn, who offered a personal connection and unique perspective of the Bataan Death March. His uncle and namesake, Marine PFC Daniel W. Ray, was a survivor of the horrific Bataan march.

CDR Flynn recounted for the assembled crowd stories as told by PFC Ray's family.

"I never had the opportunity to meet my uncle," Flynn said. "However, I have always felt close to him, and I knew he was a war hero I was proud of. I am

very pleased to have the honor to recognize him and his fellow heroes on this occasion."

CDR Flynn shared press and first person reports of the atrocities visited on the POW's as they endured the brutal five day, 66 mile death march. Survivors of Bataan were ultimately sent to Palawan Island. In an act of unthinkable horror, the Japanese army summarily pursued a systematic method of murder of the prisoners, including Flynn's uncle, in December 1944 as American

forces closed in to liberate the island.

"Of the 146 enlisted men and four officers, only 11 men survived."

In closing, CDR Flynn noted that it was not until 1952 that "the remains of 123 of the Palawan victims were transferred to the Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery near St Louis, Mo., where they lie in a mass grave, honored today by those who remember. One of them was my uncle, Marine PFC Daniel W Ray. *Semper Fi.*"

Following the ceremony, TMAR troops and their family and friends enjoyed a catered barbecue lunch before forming up for the nearly 6 mile return trip to Camp Mabry.

While the trip was long and arduous, especially under the 94 degree Texas heat, it paled in comparison to the challenges, hardships and ultimate sacrifices of those in the Greatest Generation who endured the original Bataan Death March of 1942.



*TMAR Members march to the Texas Capitol to commemorate the 69th anniversary of the Bataan Death March*

*Photo by SSG Timothy Pruitt*

# TMAR 3BN Adds Realism to Victims at DFW Airport Drill

Story and Photos by LT Mark Hukel  
Unit Public Affairs Representative

DFW Airport, TEXAS - Members of 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion Texas Maritime Regiment (TMAR) took part in a recent disaster drill (Jan. 15, 2011) at the DFW Airport. The airport staff was very enthused in having members of the Texas State Guard take part in the drill and TMAR members participated in several ways.

"The main duty we were tasked with was the application of moulage to the victims," said Lieutenant David Ellis, TMAR liaison with the DFW drill officials.

Moulage is the application of make-up that gives the victims a look of injury, severe bruising, lacerations, burns and even the look of broken bones.

After only very brief instruction in the moulage techniques, 3BN personnel began applying the make-up. Everyone did a fantastic job getting the task completed. There were some "severely injured victims" created by the moulage artists.

TMAR personnel were also involved with the training aspect of a bus wreck on airport grounds and the observation of the DFW Airport Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in action.

Battalion Commander Rigoulot, Commander Mike



*PO2 Frank Willis displays his injury from the bus crash exercise.*

Boothe and other unit officers and senior enlisted were able to join the staff of the EOC and observe the disaster unfold. CDR Boothe stated "Participating in the drill will help us better understand EOC operations as it relates in the MEMS and ICS systems during emergencies".

The remainder of the officers and enlisted were transported "bus accident" scene and were able follow the entire event from the arrival of the initial personnel through the set up of a Triage to the end when the last victim had been removed. It was good for our personnel to see this "disaster" and the actions taken by the emergency personnel.

Emergency personnel from several jurisdictions participated including Dallas, Fort Worth, Arlington, Irving, Coppell, Grapevine and Euless. In addition, more than 200 volunteers took part from all across North Texas, including TMAR 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion.

Alan Black, DFW Director of Public Safety, stated "We're constantly learning new ways of responding to different types of emergencies, so we will be ready in crises situation. The effectiveness of an exercise like this is even greater when you can reach out into the community and have mutual partners take an active role."

Third Battalion's participation in the disaster drill was a valued and worthwhile training experience. The actions observed can be related to other emergency situations that Texas State Guard members could be exposed to in our mission assignments. This was an excellent experience and we look forward to future participation in these types of emergency drills.



*Warrant Officer Ken "Doc" Waltz applies moulage to a "victim."*



# Flynn Named to Security and Vet Committees

AUSTIN, Texas – State Representative Dan Flynn (R-Canton) was recognized for his outstanding work on Border security and his contributions to Homeland Security by being appointed to the Committees on *Defense and Veterans' Affairs* and *Homeland Security and Public Safety* last Friday, Feb. 11. Rep. Flynn also serves Texas as a Commander in the Texas Maritime Regiment of the Texas State Guard.

In his new role, Rep. Flynn will be working on the State's response to the drug based violence on the Texas-Mexico Border, Homeland Security Issues, and Veterans' needs. "I plan to work and support a strong statewide response and to find ways to strengthen our military and public safety teams to better serve Texans," stated Rep. Flynn.

Rep. Flynn represents District 2 in northeast Texas which includes Hunt, Rains and Van Zandt counties. Rep. Flynn is the Vice Chair

of the National Conference of State Legislators (NCSL) Standing Committees and actively serves on the military affairs component of that Conference.

CMDR Flynn has also served the citizens of Texas through the Texas State Guard and has deployed in support of hurricanes and natural disasters to the Upper Rio Grande Valley. Rep. Flynn's prior military service includes enlistments in the Texas National Guard and the U.S. Army Reserves.

Rep. Flynn is one of nine Texas legislators who are active members of the Texas State Guard. Also serving in the TXSG: Rep. Leo Berman (R-Tyler), Rep. Phil King (R-Weatherford), Rep. Tim Kleinschmidt (R-Lexington), Rep. Bill Callegari (R-Houston), Rep. Allen Fletcher (R-Houston), Rep. Ryan Guillen (D-Rio Grande City), Rep. Aaron Pena (R-Edinburg) and Rep. Larry Gonzales [R-Round Rock].



## Special Needs Tracking System a Real Rose

Story by MAJ J. Michael Spraggins  
Texas History Detachment

AUSTIN – Texas *"What's in a name? That which we call a rose, by any other name would smell as sweet."*

William Shakespeare penned this immortal line in *Romeo and Juliet*, not realizing that the Texas State Guard would do the same thing for a vital part of their primary mission – emergency shelter management.

A critical part of the TXSG mission is the care and management of Special Needs citizens during an emergency shelter operation. Special needs are defined as someone who does not have the means to evacuate, cannot self evacuate, is elderly; or may be physically or cognitively challenged or may have an accompanying pet.

What was first called Special Needs Evacuation Tracking System (SNETS) by the Texas Department of Emergency Management was later changed to TxSNETS, adding the Texas identifier to distinguish the fact that no other state has developed such a comprehensive tracking system for Special Needs persons.

As Shakespeare wrote, a system as sweet as this can be called by any name and not lose its value or mission. Effective February, 2011, the TxSNETS pro-

gram underwent a name change and is now known as the Texas Emergency Tracking Network (TETN). The name change reflects an even broader capability of tracking all evacuees, their required medical equipment and very importantly, their pets.

Guardsmen from across Texas met at the Texas Department of Public Safety Headquarters on Feb. 26, 2011 to attend the TETN Train-the-Trainer course. They learned that TETN will be able to track all evacuation shelter occupants each time they leave the shelter and when they return. People, pets, and medical assets are entered into a statewide database and tracked via unique bar coded yellow tags and wrist bands that are also seeded with Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) technology.

TETN will also create a record of each person when they board a bus to return home to the ZIP Code from which they were evacuated. In the future, many additional applications will be available as the Texas Department of Emergency Management identifies new needs.

TETN training is under the command of Colonel Ben Setliff; assisting are Lieutenant Colonel Edmund Vickers, Captain Margaret Vaughan and Master Sergeant Kevin Herron.

2d Lt Jason Allred, 4AW PAO, also contributed to this story.



*Thirty-four TXSG members completed Train-the-Trainer and Mass Care Shelter classes Feb. 12, 2011*

## TXSG Marks 2011 Hurricane Season with Shelter Management Training, TXSG Style

**Story by 1LTJoy Schoffler**  
**Texas State Guard Public Affairs**

AUSTIN, Texas - With the 2010 Hurricane Season fresh in their minds, TXSG members waste no time ensuring they are prepared for next year's hurricane season. The 2011 Hurricane Train Up cycle is off to a great start!

Thirty-four TXSG members completed Train the Trainer and Mass Care Shelter classes last Saturday (Feb. 12). The completion of these classes mean that each unit will have trainers in place to help units reach the 100% trained goal by June 1 – the beginning of the 2011 Hurricane Season.

"With the completion of this class we now have Shelter Trainers in all our Regiments, Brigades and Air Wings. Each of these new trainers now will return to their units and conduct Mass Care training for all personnel in preparation for any disaster deployments," explained Colonel Frank Stead.

In the past, training had been conducted by the American Red Cross or Baptist Children and Family Services. With the addition of these new trainers, the TXSG will now have the ability to provide primary and leader training for Mass Care Shelter operations for their respective members.

The main difference with the new Mass Care Shelter class is that it trains units to specific TXSG Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for shelter operations. The class has also been designed to integrate specific Incident Command methodology and terminology to allow members of the TXSG to better assimilate with their civilian counterparts.

The class was taught by Major Ron Hilliard, RN and COL Stead. Mike VonWupperfeld, a new recruit, assisted with administrative duties during the session. The main topics covered in the course were:

- Incident Management as defined in Homeland Security Presidential Directive 5

- National Incident Management System

- Defense Support to Civil Authority SOP from the Adjutant General

- Mass Care in Times of Disaster - Role of the Texas State Guard

- Introduction to the Texas State Guard Mass Care Shelter Operations Manual

- Texas State Guard Mass Care Shelter Operations Manual for Shelter Team Leaders

- Texas State Guard Support of Mass Care Operations

- TXSG SOP for Mass Care

- TXSG Support of Mass Care Operations - Annex A Lower Rio Grande Valley Shelter Plan SOP

The class has not only taught trainers how to instruct soldiers on Mass Care Operations, but also gave trainers all of the tools needed to effectively execute their training. All trainers were given complete Power Point presentations and exercise scenarios to ensure their success when they returned to their units.

"This is part of the J-3's mission," explained COL Stead. "It is our responsibility to make sure the soldiers are prepared and trained. The key is preparedness, having all soldiers qualified to carry out their mission."



# TXSG Remembers Three Fallen Soldiers Who Served Texas and their Fellow Texans

**Story by SSgt John Crowder**  
**Texas State Guard Public Affairs**

## **CPL Jackie Bailey**

Corporal Jackie Bailey, an active TXSG Civil Affairs Specialist in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 2<sup>nd</sup> Civil Affairs Regiment, died Jan. 16, 2011 of an aneurism.

CPL Bailey joined the Texas State Guard in 2009 and distinguished herself by her attitude. She was intensely eager to find new ways to contribute and was immensely proud of the Physical Fitness ribbon that she worked



very hard to earn. With expertise in child care administration, CPL Bailey prepared a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for child care in a shelter situation. Her Shelter Child Care SOP, which was detailed, specific and filled with pamphlets and documents on helping children deal with tragedy and disaster, earned her a posthumous Texas Outstanding Achievement medal.

"She was truly a remarkable woman and made a contribution entirely out of proportion to her rank," said Lieutenant Colonel Peyton Randolph, Commanding Officer of the 2 BN/2 RGT.

A memorial service for CPL Bailey was held Jan. 30 at the 36<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Memorial on the grounds of the Texas Capital Building. The service was attended by over a hundred family and friends including TXSG Major General Raymond Peters, Brigadier General Charles Miller and a large contingent from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Civil Affairs Regimental Command Group.

## **SFC Ronald Munn**

Sergeant First Class Ronald

Wayne Munn, 66, an active TXSG Radio Operator in the 4CI command, died Feb. 18, 2011 in Austin, from a heart attack.



SFC Munn was born on Nov. 14, 1944 to Joseph and Lila Munn Jr. in Fort Worth, Texas. He was graduated from St. John High School in Ennis, Texas and attended Concordia University in Austin. SFC Munn was also a political science major at the State University of New York while on active duty with the United States Army. He retired from the US Army with 25 years of service in 2002.

After serving his country, SFC Munn served his home state by joining the TXSG.

"SFC Munn was a great guy to work with," remarked SFC Steven Troutd. "He was an accomplished Radio Operator in the C4I group (Communications, Computers, Command and Control Information Systems) and his HAM call sign was W5EDD.

SFC Munn was also an accomplished musician. He studied piano and violin and performed as a section violinist with the University of Texas Chamber Orchestra in Austin.

He had nine published original works, was a member of The American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP) and a member of the American Federation of Musicians. He was the owner of Full Sound Publishing Company and SchatzSteph Records.

SFC Munn is survived by his mother, Lila Morris Munn; brother, Joseph L. Munn and wife Jeannette; niece, Jennifer Wood and her children; and two cousins.

Interment was at the Dallas Fort Worth National Cemetery, Grand Prairie, Texas.

## **1LT Thomas Neumann**

Retired First Lieutenant Thomas L. Neumann died Feb. 20, 2011 in Houston, Texas.

1LT Neumann was born Oct. 7, 1917, the fifth of six children to Henry Neumann and Julia Peschka Neumann. Raised in the East End of Houston, 1LT Neumann was graduated from Sam Houston High School, and he served proudly in the United States Marine Corps during the World War II.

After the war, 1LT Neumann joined the Texas State Guard and found work with the Humble Oil and Refining Co. (Exxon) earning his BBA while working there. He retired from a senior management position after 43 years of service, in 1979.



1LT Neumann was a founding member of the Garden Villas Community Volunteer Fire Department and he was instrumental in the development of Freeway National Little League where he coached for many years. 1LT Neumann was also active in the Mt. Carmel Men's Club.

1LT Neumann is survived by his children; Mrs. Gerry Watson and her late husband, Jim, of Shenandoah, Texas, their two children and two grandchildren; by Thomas D. Neumann and his wife Susan of Sheffield, Massachusetts, their four children and nine grandchildren; by Carl H. Neumann and his wife, Joey, of The Woodlands, Texas, their three daughters and three grandchildren.

*LTC Peyton Randolph, The Austin American Statesman and other services contributed to this story.*



Lieutenant Commander Larry Gonzales (center) takes the TXSG oath of office administered by MG Ray Peters (right) as TMAR BG Robert Bodisch (left) looks on. LCDR Gonzales is a member of the Texas House of Representatives for House District 52. Gonzales is assigned to TMAR Headquarters as the Communications Officer. Photo by LT Dale Laine

## Medical Brigade Reaches Across Texas Providing Care for Citizens and Guard

**Story by COL Robert Morecook  
Medical Brigade Public Affairs Officer**

The Medical Brigade of the TXSG provides medical support for Texans after disasters. The Medical Brigade also supports other TXSG units when medical support for training functions is needed.

Medical Brigade units are seen at Texas community events where they provide first aid care to the public. The Houston Medical Group will be a major medical provider to over 13,000 bicyclists who ride from Houston to Austin in the annual Multiple Sclerosis 150 Mile Ride this month.

The Medical Brigade is a Major Subordinate Command of the Texas State Guard; equal with the Army, Air and Maritime commands. The Medical Brigade is under the command of Brigadier General Luis Fernandez, a trauma surgeon from Tyler.

There are Medical Ranger units all around Texas. The larger units are called Groups, and are usually commanded by a colonel or a lieutenant colonel. Currently, there are groups in Austin, Dallas/Fort Worth, Galveston, Houston, Midland/Odessa, Temple, Tyler, and a provisional group in the Rio Grande Valley near Brownsville.

Some Groups have smaller subordinate units known as Companies. At this time there are Companies in Austin, Corpus Christi, Lubbock, and Wichita Falls. There are also detachments or provisional units in Fredericksburg and Laredo.

At Annual Training (AT) medical personnel will be present for service and training both weekends. Medical Brigade members will be providing care for other training guardsmen as well as advancing their own military education. Elements of one medical unit will also be present between weekends to provide support for the Quick Response Teams at the pistol range.

Many patients were seen last year on sick call at AT. One life was saved, in part because of quick medical assessment, followed by an air evacuation of the patient to a hospital specializing in heart problems.

Operation Lone Star [OLS] is the major training event for the Medical Brigade each year. These two weeks of military medical care are preparation for providing mass care in future disasters in Texas.

Supported by other members of the Texas State Guard, the Medical Brigade will see about 12,000 patients this summer at free medical clinics in the Rio Grande Valley, without regard to financial need or immigration status.

This event is also coordinated with local and state health providers in the Valley.

OLS has been so successful that for the first time the US Public Health Service is expected to send about 150 of their own providers – for their own training needs – and to provide supplementary care to Texans.



**Why I Serve in the TXSG**

# Duty, Honor, Country; "There's Nothing Better that I Do"

**Story by CPT Eric Williams  
1st BN, 19th REGT  
Executive Officer**



I entered ROTC at Texas Christian University in 1985 mostly out of curiosity. My father served as a Marine during and after the Korean War, and

most of my older relatives had served in some capacity in WWII.

I was the first from my family to attend college, and am living the American dream. During my first two years of ROTC, I learned leadership foundations, hands-on fieldcraft, and began learning from military history.

Once I signed my contract with the US Army for my last two years as a Cadet, the training intensified quite a bit. We were out on FTX almost every month, and spent most of the summer at Ft. Riley, Kansas.

I was commissioned as a 2LT in May 1989 and proceeded to Ft.

McClelland, Alabama, for my Officer Basic Course. Graduating with Honors from that program, I was excited about the future, but the timing was not in my favor, as our class became a Reduction in Force budget cut, and we were sent home and into the Individual Ready Reserve.

My degree being in Criminal Justice, I found employment in law enforcement, and was part of the Texas Army National Guard, 49th Armored, for a short time.

After working as a police officer for almost ten years, I began attending law school part-time in the evening program. I graduated from Texas Wesleyan Law School in May of 1999, and was licensed as an Attorney in Texas in November of 1999. I am now also the Justice of the Peace in Precinct No. 1, Kaufman County, Texas.

It took another several years before I even knew Texas had a State Guard, but once I did a little research, I was very interested.

I serve because the Texas State Guard is my second chance to serve the code -- Duty, Honor, Country.

Our Duty, as citizens and members of a community that provides opportunities for those like

me -- work hard and you will prosper -- is to protect that community, that system, and each other.

Honor, while unfortunately lacking in many aspects of our society is essential to service in the guard -- we take regular citizens and train them (in a very short period of time) in military values, bearing, and how to set the example.

Texas is not just another state in the United States of America. Texas is a representation of something everyone should aspire to be -- independent, confident, resilient and caring. I serve Texas because it's very special, and exemplifies the American spirit.

I serve in the Texas State Guard because I will always uphold the code of Duty, Honor, Country, and I am very proud to be allowed to participate in a Military Unit that represents the ultimate 'Citizen-Soldier'

Someone did ask "Don't you have something better to do than go to drill and meetings and all that stuff?" My reply was simple. "I don't spend my time in the guard because I have nothing better to do; I spend my time in the guard because there's nothing better I do."



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Captain Croft's Battery of Light Artillery was on hand recently in Midland to mark the merger of the 39<sup>th</sup> Civil Affairs Regiment and the Midland/Odessa Medical Response Group into the 39<sup>th</sup> Composite Regiment. As a special thanks to outgoing Commander COL David Osterhout, Croft's Battery gave the each member of the Official Party a chance to hear the cannon "Liberty" speak.

Photos by CPT Vicky Nunn



## TXSG HQ Welcomes COL Symons, New J1

Colonel Rod Symons (left) was sworn into the Texas State Guard during the February drill by MG Ray Peters, TXSG Commanding General (right). COL Symons will be heading J-1 activities at Headquarters. The father of two, COL Symons lives in Austin, following a 25-year career in the United States Army. Please be sure to welcome COL Symons to the TXSG as he begins his new role.

# Role of a Chaplain in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

**Story by Chaplain (COL) Farrar Bentley**

In today's world when men and women of many faiths serve in the military, the role of the Chaplain is much different than just a few years ago. Society and the make-up of the military consisted of three major groups: Protestants, Roman Catholics, members of the Jewish faith, plus a small number of individuals from other faiths.

Today we find a number of faith groups, as well as secular groups whose adherents are increasing numbers not only in society but in the military community as well. Today's chaplain must be prepared to address all children of God in matters of faith, relationship with God, individual spiritual and secular concerns, and to serve as a spiritual and moral leader. The chaplain serves as a "soul and conscience" for the soldiers and family within his area of assignment.



I would like to share a story of an individual that exemplifies the role of a chaplain today. The Rt. Rev. Charles Henry Brent served as the senior chaplain in the headquarters of the Allied Expeditionary Force (AEF) under General John J. Pershing in WW I.

Charles Brent was ordained as a priest in the Episcopal Church in 1887. In 1902 he was consecrated Missionary Bishop of the Philippines. You may remember that

following the Spanish-American War, the Philippine Islands became a possession of the United States. He arrived in the Philippines on the same ship as the American Governor, William H. Taft (later the 27<sup>th</sup> President, 1909-1913). Bishop Brent carried with him the unofficial but very real prestige of the Ameri-

can establishment. As such he could, in this position, confined himself to serving as the religious leader among the American civilian and military officials. Instead he devoted himself toward reaching out to and throughout his entire diocese.

While serving in the Philippines as the Missionary Bishop, Bishop Brent forbade his clergy to proselytize among both Spanish and Filipino Roman Catholic and other Christian population of the Islands.

He understood it as a sin to detach a fellow Christian from his own church in order to help another church to increase its roll. He pointed out that "sheep-stealing" was a crime in the cattle world, and affirmed that it would be seen as such by the Good Shepherd of the religious domain.

I see this as the role of a military chaplain; to work with all God's children. Bishop Brent was one of the outstanding pioneers in the ecumenical movement. From Bishop Brent, "The failure of Christianity... is the inevitable failure of a kingdom divided against itself." "They (non believers) see the madness of perpetuating ancient quarrels among those striving for the need of God's good tidings in Christ."

Civilian clergy serve in a more homogeneous environment; Chaplains in the 21<sup>st</sup> century serve in a totally different environment where men and women come from all walks of life and faith; today's military chaplain must be prepared with a shepherd's heart to provide a genuine ministry to all.

Now for the rest of the story: Bishop Brent had declined three elections to the bishoprics in the United States in order to continue his work in the Inlands. Finally he accepted the position of the Bishop of New York. He spent the rest of his life serving not only his diocese but stood throughout the world among his Christian brothers as one who served all mankind.



## 2BN 4REGT On The Move

# Battalion Members Prepare for Disasters, TSU Hosts Two Day Training Exercise

**Story and Photographs by SPC Bryon Simms  
Unit Public Affairs Representative**

STEPHENVILLE, Texas - The worst. We hope to never see it, but that is exactly what members of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 4<sup>th</sup> Regiment trained for in a two-day disaster simulation Jan. 29-30, 2011.

Hosted by Tarleton State University (TSU), Battalion members received up to the minute briefs on a mock hurricane disaster; underwent basic water safety and survival training; conducted Wide Area Damage Assessments (WADA), and prepared the college gymnasium for a joint shelter and Point of Distribution (POD) operation.

Anyone familiar with hurricanes knows that flooding is a very real, very dangerous situation that can still pose a serious threat days after the storm has moved out of the area. Nowhere is this truer than in areas of the costal and lower Rio Grande Valley (LRGV) of Texas that serve as staging and sheltering areas for TXSG operations.



*MAJ Wendell Sadler prepares for his "blind dive".*

Vest and employing the ACU uniform as a flotation device.

The primary role of the Texas State Guard is to conduct shelter management with secondary objectives such as WADA and POD duties. Four teams from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion completed both objectives during the drill.

Alpha and Bravo teams, under the direction of Staff Sergeant Alvin Sissel, swept through a mock damage path across the TSU campus after a tornado ravaged the town of Stephenville.

Both teams were instructed to locate and report structural damage, debris, survivors, and people in need of medical attention to the base operations support team, team Zulu. Hand held Global Positioning Systems (GPS) were used to mark the reported locations.

Sergeant Anthony Miller led Charlie team in the assessment of the gymnasium for sheltering up to 500 displaced storm victims, complete with separate areas for families, shower facilities, TXSG operations and billeting areas, and an indoor play area in the event of inclement weather. The shelter management team also planned an area for a Level 3 POD center.



*PFC Louis Madrid takes on the incline portion of stage 2.*

Because of the potential hazards posed by flooding situations, Commanding Officer Major Wendell Sadler decided the battalion should undergo basic water survival techniques training. "We must prepare for the unexpected events and, as we all know, events do not discriminate between victims and responders," MAJ Sadler said.

Enlisting the help of U.S. Army Master Sergeant Jimmy Finney, of the Texan Battalion at Tarleton State, TXSG Battalion members completed a 15-meter swim and a "blind dive" into the pool's deep well, all while wearing full uniform and gear.

Cadets from the ROTC program, under MSGT Finney's command, conducted other drills including an in-water emergency jettison of the Load Bearing



*PFC James Vieau gives the thumbs up and demonstrates proper inflation of ACU uniform*



*LCDR David Faltot takes careful aim at the Combat Pistol Match. LCDR Faltot was awarded one of the Governor's Twenty Tabs for his pistol score.*  
*Photo by SSG Ernest*

# State Guard Units Takes Top Three Spots at TXMF Pistol Competition

**Story by MAJ Michael Quinn Sullivan,  
 Army Component Public Affairs Officer  
 LCDR David Faltot, TMAR**

AUSTIN, Texas – Taking top honors in the 30th Annual Texas National Guard Combat Pistol Match was the Texas State Guard's 19th Regiment Marksmanship Team. This marks the second year in a row that the state guard's Army component has won top honors.

The Texas National Guard's Small Arms Readiness and Training Section, a division of Texas Military Forces, conducted the annual Pistol Sustainment Exercise and Competition at Camp Swift near Bastrop on March 19 and 20.

Colonel David Erinakes, the 19th Regiment's commanding officer, said the marksmanship team reflects the high standards of the men and women in the Texas State Guard.

"I have great pride in the many members of my unit that understand that selfless service is a key to our success in protecting Texans, and this is a great example of that type of service."

The winning team included Staff Sgt. Admir Pasalic of Arlington, Sgt. Richard Murphy of Mesquite, Sgt. Sean Mounger of McKinney, and Cpl. Scott Hunt of Dallas. They beat out teams representing various units through the Texas Military Forces. The TXMF includes

the Army National Guard, Air National Guard and Texas State Guard.

Captain Theodore Baroody is the Officer In Charge of the 19th Regiment's Marksmanship Team. He said the team was selected based on their individual scores in prior competitions last year.

"Just as each guardsman provides his own uniform and transportation, these four also provide their own weapons and ammunition, without any taxpayer dollars involved," CPT Baroody said.

"They refine their marksmanship skills because of their dedication to their training and pride in representing the 19th and the State Guard. I'm proud of the dedication each man on the team has shown in preparing for this year's pistol competition." CPT Baroody noted that a similar rifle competition is scheduled to be held in May.

The Texas Maritime Regiment (TMAR) took the third place position behind the TXSG 1st Regiment but ahead of all the National Guard units.

The purpose of the state combat matches is to promote battle focused marksmanship training and provide an opportunity for individuals to participate in high intensity training to improve readiness.

**Continued on next page**



## Water Wizards

# Engineering Detachment Works to Restore Water Services After Disasters

**Story and Photo by LCDR David Bell,  
MAJ Joe Thaxton and COL Mike Thuss  
TXSG Engineering Detachment**

When hurricanes strike Texas, one of the first public services requiring attention is the restoration of water to the public; both potable (drinking) water and wastewater services. This is due to the potential for the spread of water borne diseases and to control disease vectors in the disaster areas.

The TXSG Engineering Detachment has a specific mission - to deploy immediately to a Category 4 or 5 hurricane damage area and assist the Texas Emergency Management Staff and local community leadership in the restoration of water and wastewater services.

The Engineering Detachment will assist with water and wastewater system technical damage assessment and recovery planning and support. Additionally, the Engineering Detachment will coordinate volunteer personnel responding under the Texas Engineering Extension Service (TEEX) and other mutual aid agreements from unaffected local government organizations

The Engineering Detachment is composed of Texas Licensed Professional Engineers, Licensed Water and Wastewater Plant Operators, and other Environmental, Logistics and Construction Professionals. Each member of the Detachment is inspected annually for readiness to deploy and remain on site in a self sustaining capacity for a minimum of 72 hours.

By deploying in teams on a renewable schedule, the Detachment intends to be able to remain on site from the first days of the disaster into the extended future to restore basic water and wastewater services.

The Detachment expects the initial requests for



*Members of the Engineering Detachment prepare for storm water and potable water work. Photo by LCDR David Bell*

their services will come from small to medium local governments or the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

The Engineering Detachment has been evolving over the past two years and responded very capably to AT Drills at Camp Bowie in Brownwood last summer. Currently there are more than 15 officers and enlisted members in the Detachment, making it the civilian equivalent of a small engineering consulting company. Plans to expand the unit are under review by HQ's J-3.

For more information on the Engineering Detachment, contact: [Michael.Thuss@txsg.state.tx.us](mailto:Michael.Thuss@txsg.state.tx.us).

## LCDR Faltot Wins Governor's 20 Tab for Pistol

### **Continued from previous page**

In order to make the competition as realistic as possible, all competitors are required to wear full combat gear including vests, Kevlar, first aid pouches, and camelbacks.

TMAR competitors included LCDR David Faltot (3<sup>rd</sup> BN), 1LT David Barnwell (1<sup>st</sup> BN), W01 Jon Henderson (3<sup>rd</sup> BN), CW04 Frank Slaby (3<sup>rd</sup> BN) and SN Richard Faltot (3<sup>rd</sup> BN).

The course of fire included firing from fixed position with rapid, combat reloads at the 5, 15, 20 and 30 yard ranges. The first day shooting included Targets that

were camouflaged with simulated body armor. Shots had to be placed in specific locations to count for score. Several of the courses of fire required double body shots followed by a very quick head shot for a total time of 5 seconds or less. Missing the head shot negated all scores on the target resulting in a score of 0.

Individuals with top scores become members of the elite Governor's Twenty. The Governor's Twenty consists of the top two from each of the Light Machine Gun and Sniper matches and the top eight in each of the Pistol and Rifle matches. At this event LCDR David Faltot, representing 3<sup>rd</sup> BN, won the Governors Twenty tab in pistol.



# 18 Soldiers Complete Regional Basic Orientation Training

**Story and Photo by CPT Joseph Conte  
8 REGT Public Affairs Officer**

ANGLETON, Texas – Region 1 Basic Orientation Training (BOT) Soldiers from the 8<sup>th</sup> Civil Affairs (CA) Regiment (REGT), Houston Medical Response Group (HMRG), and Galveston Medical Response Group (GMRG), Texas State Guard (TXSG), received instruction on the military science foundations and skills they will use throughout their service in the Texas Military Forces.

The 8<sup>th</sup> CA REGT conducted the Region 1 BOT over two weekends, during March 11-13 and April 1-3, at the Texas Army National Guard Armory located in Angleton, Texas. The Region 1 area includes Greater Houston and Southeast Texas.

The BOT instructor and support staff totaled more than 30 officers, Non-Commissioned Officers (NCOs), and enlisted Soldiers from the 8<sup>th</sup> CA REGT, HMRG, and GMRG. The BOT Senior NCO instructors and staff included CSM Paul Esler, HQ/8REGT, CSM Ron Everts, 2BN/8REGT, 1SG Jack Booth, 1BN/8REGT, and SFC Jeremy Brister and SFC Steven Dunbar, 3BN/8REGT.

"This is the first Regional Basic Orientation Training, which brings units together from the various components of the Texas State Guard through a common training experience, to fully qualify new

members into the Texas State Guard. I am proud that the 8<sup>th</sup> Regiment spearheaded the first one" Said Colonel Dennis O'Driscoll, Commander, 8<sup>th</sup> CA REGT.

The BOT subjects covered were Uniform Wear and Appearance, Customs and Courtesies, Rank Recognition/Chain of Command, Physical Fitness Training, Drill and Ceremony, Military Law, Administrative Policy and Procedure, Guard Duty, Radio Operations Procedure and Policy, Land Navigation, Army Values, TXSG Values, TXSG History, Military Development, First Aid, Safety Procedures and Policies, Chaplain Corps, and Public Affairs.

"During my two weekends at Basic Orientation Training, I learned many valuable skills including first aid and land navigation. These skills will be an asset to me when I am deployed to serve in Texas" said Second Lieutenant Julia Hiner, BOT Class Leader and Graduate, A Company, GMRG.

12 Soldiers from the 8<sup>th</sup> CA REGT, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalions, 1 soldier from the HMRG, and 5 Soldiers from the GMRG graduated from the Region 1 BOT.

"Basic Orientation Training was a great opportunity for building relationships between battalions, and learning more about the Texas State Guard." Said Specialist Malana Nall, BOT Training Graduate, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 8<sup>th</sup> REGT.



# LTC Perez Assumes Command of 3<sup>rd</sup> BN 4REGT, LTC Peters new Regiment XO

**Story and Photos by PFC Victor Segura  
Unit Public Affairs Representative**

DECATUR, Texas - "The only thing constant is change," so stated Lieutenant Colonel Ray Peters, Commander of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion 4<sup>th</sup> Regiment just prior to the Change of Command ceremony on March 5, 2011. LTC Peters relinquished command of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion to Lieutenant Colonel Michael Perez. LTC Peters will now serve as the Executive Officer for the 4<sup>th</sup> Regiment.

Colonel Howard Palmer, Jr., Commanding Officer of the 4<sup>th</sup> Regiment, was in attendance at the official passing of the guidon between the incoming and outgoing commanders.

As a testament to LTC Peter's dedication as their first commander, Chaplain Garner quoted verses from the book of Ezekiel about dry bones. This story referenced the fact that LTC Peters had assumed command of a mere 7 soldiers in August of 2006. At the Change of Command, there was a formation of two companies, totaling over 60 soldiers, which speaks to LTC Peter's leadership. He has made the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion into a robust unit, which has seen six deployments since 2007.

Lieutenant Colonel Ray Peters enlisted in the Texas National Guard in July 1964, serving in the 71st and 36th Airborne Brigades, as a company clerk. He was commissioned as a 2LT, first commanding a platoon, then a company. He attended Command and General Staff School and then



*Formal passing of the guidon at the Change of Command ceremony 3BN 4 REGT. LTC Perez is now the new Commander.*

transferred to the US Army Reserves. LTC Peters served in the 75th Maneuver Area Command as a brigade S1 and as a logistical comptroller.

Lieutenant Colonel Michael Perez was commissioned as a United States Army Infantry Officer in 1983 through the ROTC program at Texas Tech University. While on active duty, LTC Perez served with the 25th Infantry Division at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii. He has served as an assistant G3 training officer at 111 Corps, and as Company Commander with the 1st (Tiger) Brigade, 2nd Armored Division at Fort Hood, Texas. He has also served as a Recruiting Company Commander with the Dallas Battalion, Recruiting Command. He has served with the Texas State Guard since March 2009 as the 4th Regiment's S3, Operations Officer and Interim Executive Officer.

In his brief remarks, LTC Perez said he is humbled and honored to be called to this post. He spoke of how after 16 years of active reserve service he accidentally learned about the Texas State Guard and joined immediately. LTC Perez said he takes pride in the service to his fellow Texans, and is proud to command this 3rd Battalion. He is looking forward to the work ahead, and expressed gratitude to his family, thanking them for their commitment.

LTC Peters remarked that it has been "a privilege to serve the people of Texas. Hopefully when you get deployed, I'll still be right there with you."



*Gifts given to LTC Peters: a small version of the Regimental Colors complete with a 3 representing 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, an 1860 replica saber and scabbard with wall hanger, and a plaque commemorating his selfless service and outstanding leadership.*

# TMAR 3BN Learns Defensive Tactics to Support TP&W Game Wardens

**Story by LT Mark Hukel**  
**Unit Public Affairs Representative**

FORT WORTH, Texas - Members of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, Texas Maritime Regiment (TMAR) got some first-hand instruction on defensive tactics and other topics that relate to TMAR's roll in assisting Texas Parks and Wildlife officers.

The training was held March 19-20 at the Fort Worth Police and Fire Training Center. TMAR Chief Petty Officer Aaron Self, an active McKinney police officer was the primary instructor, assisted by Sgt. Joshua Flory and Sgt. Robert Lewis.

CPO Self is a Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Education (TCLEOSE) certified instructor. The defensive tactics instruction given to the TMAR personnel meets the TCLEOSE training standard for law enforcement officers in Texas.

Chief Self began the defensive tactics class with a discussion on legal issues which carried into the levels of use of force known as the force continuum.

The force continuum is standard in police training that shows the student the levels of force, from an officer's mere physical presence and continuing to physical force. The force continuum shows when to escalate as well as de-escalate the force being used to the appropriate level.

"It is important for our personnel to understand the training the Texas Parks and Wildlife officers receive so they will be better equipped to assist them," Chief Self stated.

The next portion of the training centered on con-

tact and cover and verbal commands. In addition, basic searching techniques (lying and standing) were reviewed and reinforced through a practical exercise.

Instruction was given on compliant and non-compliant handcuffing techniques. From here, the training covered basic holds, pressure points, stuns and distraction techniques. During the practical exercise our Mariners quickly learned and they became

very "compliant." TMAR LT Mark Hukel, a sergeant with the Fort Worth Police Department stated "Properly placed pressure point, holds or distraction techniques can quickly help get an uncooperative "bad guy" under control. The quicker a subject can be subdued, the less likely anyone will be hurt."

Sunday brought a review of the techniques and a practical exercise where the confined space of a boat was simulated by conducting the exercise in the bed of a pick-up. This method worked very well, giving the mariners a chance to search and handcuff a suspect in the simulated confines of a boat.

This training helped the TMAR personnel be-

come familiar with working in these small confines. Understanding the dangers facing the game wardens will help TMAR personnel know better how to serve and assist them.

Battalion XO, CMDR Mike Boothe, participated in the training. "This gives our personnel hands-on training that correlates directly with our mission with Texas Parks and Wildlife officers. Even though our troop's going hands on is unlikely it is very valuable to have this knowledge," he stated.



*CPO Aaron Self demonstrates pressure points on PO1 Dan Davenport*  
*Photo by Lt Mark Hukel*



# Operation Padre Repels Oklastanian Rebels, TXSG Airmen Play Key Role in Border Clash

**Story by SSgt John Crowder  
Texas State Guard Public Affairs**

The Okies are coming! The Okies are coming!

With apologies to Paul Revere, that's not exactly correct.

Operation Padre was a recent TXARNG exercise (March 26, 2011) at Fort Wolters in Mineral Wells, Texas. Oklastanian insurgents had crossed the Red River from the north and were conducting small unit raids in and around Mineral



Photo by SSgt Johan Stokman

Wells.

The 2-149<sup>th</sup> General Support Aviation Battalion (GSAB) conducted the exercise by moving ground troops, artillery field pieces and the resulting insurgent casualties using their Chinook and Blackhawk helicopters from their Grand Prairie Operation Command Center to FOB TX 18 (Fort Wolters).

The TXSG 436<sup>th</sup> Air Support Group was asked to supply airmen to be 'insurgents' and later casualties for Operation Padre. The 436<sup>th</sup> ASG provided almost 40 insurgents for the exercise, many in native Oklastanian costume.



Photo by SSgt Johan Stokman



Photo by SSG Tim Pruitt

The TXSG 'insurgents' worked through several scenarios with the 56<sup>th</sup> BCT as they conducted Stability and Support Operations (SASO) through the village. One scenario was the discovery of a hidden arms cache in one of the village house, another saw the foiled attack on TXARNG ground forces by Oklastanian fighters, while in another a suicide bomber was felled before he could detonate his explosive laden vest.

During these SASO scenarios, the 2-149<sup>th</sup> airlifted a 105mm field artillery piece from Grand Prairie



Photo by SSgt Johan Stokman

to help in repressing insurgent small arms and rocket propelled grenade (RPG) fire. While 80 per cent of the indigenous population supports the TXARNG presence near their village, 20 per cent are ctively armed fighters.

In an effort to promote good will among the Oklastanians, MEDEVAC helicopters were made available to transport all casualties, friendly and hostile, to the battlefield aid station in Grand Prairie.

Every Oklastanian native was wounded in some manner. The 2-149 Medics placed red tape on the every TXSG airmen at their wound

location and provided a descriptive card which had the extent of the injuries sustained.

All TXSG airmen were airlifted back to Grand Prairie, some in MEDEVAC helicopters on stretchers, others on the Chinooks. Back at the base, the incoming helos were met and the injured we subjected to triage. Some insurgents were so badly wounded that they died, while many were treated by the 2-149<sup>th</sup> Medical staff and re-



Photo by SSgt Johan Stokman

covered from their wounds.

The 436<sup>th</sup> ASG is hosted by the 2-149<sup>th</sup> GSAB at Peace Prairie field in Grand Prairie, Texas, site of the former Dallas Naval Air Station. The 436<sup>th</sup> has supported the 2-149<sup>th</sup> for over two years.

"We have an excellent relationship with our host unit," said Lt Col Larry Bosher, Commander of the 436<sup>th</sup>. "We've been able to help the 2-149<sup>th</sup> in a variety of ways from motor pool to food preparation and supply. This weekend's Operation Padre is just another example of the way that the 2-149<sup>th</sup> has folded the 436<sup>th</sup> into their operating structure," Lt Col Bosher remarked.



Photo by SSG Tim Pruitt

**After Sneak Attack at Pearl Harbor**

# TDG 'Flying Guardsmen' are 'Eyes in the Skies' for a Nervous Nation

**By SFC Michael T. Hail  
TXSG History Detachment**

Under authority of an Act of Congress, passed August 27, 1940, the President of the United States declared a National Emergency and ordered all units of the National Guard of Texas into active Federal military service in the fall of 1940.

By passage of the "State Guard Amendment" to the National Defense Act on October 21, 1940, congress authorized States to organize, during the absence of the National Guard in Federal service, "such additional military forces as State laws may authorize."

On February 10, 1941, the 47<sup>th</sup> Legislature of Texas passed the "Texas Defense Guard Act," authorizing the organization of a new military force, to replace the National Guard insofar as its State functions and responsibilities were concerned.

The Texas Defense Guard (TDG) was born, giving Texans who did not qualify for regular military service due to age, health or critical civilian job a way to serve on the Texas "home front". This is the story of one group of Texans.

The men of Company A, 29<sup>th</sup> Battalion, in Dallas, were civilian pilots and aircraft owners, who called themselves the "Flying Guardsmen."

On July 1, 1941 Major C. Joseph Snyder, the Commander of the 29<sup>th</sup> Battalion, TDG, submitted a proposal to the TDG Commanding General, recommending the creation of an Aviation Branch for the Texas Defense Guard. Due to the vast size of Texas, long coastline and distances between cities,



the aviation proposal was approved within a week.

On July 15, 1941, Major Snyder and an initial cadre were transferred from the 29<sup>th</sup> Battalion to start the Branch Headquarter and Squadron 1. Major Snyder also assumed Command of the Aviation Branch.

The plan had fifteen squadrons under three regional "Wing" headquarters, supporting the fifty TDG Infantry Battalions. The Aviation Branch would have a total strength of 350 officers and 2,000 enlisted men. The units were provisional until they had recruited and trained enough personnel to qualify for State Recognition.

On the night of September 23, 1941, a hurricane hit the Houston area. Squadron 2, along with the Houston area TDG Battalions, helped the police maintain order and rescued people during the height of the storm.

After the storm both Squadron 2 and Squadron 5 from Corpus Christi sent out relief flights to search for survivors and report conditions to the civilian authorities. The hurricane left four dead and \$6.4 million dollars (1941 dollars) in damages.

After December 7, 1941 and the bombing of Pearl Harbor by the Japanese, all civilian aircraft were grounded. The US Government commandeered a number of civilian aircraft for military use and all others were to be disassembled and stored until as the letter from the National Aeronautics Association stated "The Great Emergency is over."

The TDG Aviation branch aircraft (privately owned and flown by the aviators of the TDG) were allowed to fly along with the Civil Air Patrol (CAP). The Squadrons flew support for army training centers.





The Civil Air Patrol was the idea of World War I pilot Gill Robb Wilson, then aviation Editor of the New York Herald Tribune and president of the National Aeronautics Association.

Wilson had visited Germany in the mid 1930s and saw how the Germans were preparing for war with their civilian glider program for training pilots. He felt the United States was not taking the threats from overseas seriously. He proposed mobilizing America's civilian pilots into a corps of "Flying Minutemen". Wilson took his idea to Washington in 1941 and gained support from the Army Air Corps commander Major General Hap Arnold.

On December 1, 1941, President Roosevelt founded the Civil Air Patrol by executive order. It was placed under the authority of the Director of the Office of Civilian Defense, Fiorello LaGuardia former mayor of New York City and a WWI pilot. The CAP was organized into Wings with one Wing per State.

On June 7, 1942, Governor Coke Stevens ordered the Aviation Branch of TDG disbanded by June 15, 1942, to consolidate the aviation effort under the federal CAP. The Flying Guardsmen were urged to join the CAP, which would enroll them at the same grades and capacities held in the TDG.

Major Earl Johnson, national Commander of the CAP stated "it is essential that the great talents of the Texas air personnel not be confined within the borders of the state, but be made available on a national scale when needed."

At mustering out the TDG Aviation Branch had 211 officers and 544 enlisted men, forming eleven full squadrons and four partial squadrons.

Typical aircraft flown during the time of activation were single engine two and four place wood and fabric aircraft. Types owned and flown by the Flying Guardsmen were; Piper Cubs, Taylorcrafts, Aeroncas, Stinsons, Cessnas, Fairchild's, the gen-



eral aviation aircraft of the 1930s. Few of the aircraft have Nav-lights, electrical systems or starters, and required hand propping to start the engine. There were few hard surface runways and all aircraft were very well suited at landing in farmers' fields, cow pastures or on country roads.

On September 15, 1948, three Air Squadrons were authorized for the Texas State Guard Reserve Corps in Houston, Dallas and San Antonio. The following year the number was increased to one squadron per Brigade area. (Author's note: information on these squadrons is not available)

Although organized for only a short time the Aviation Branch made significant contributions to both state and national security by providing support to the civilian authorities as well as eyes in the sky for search and rescue and moving supplies and personal around the state. The Air Branch has developed into the TXSG Air Wing in supporting the Texas Air National Guard as a trained and capable force multiplier.

**Major J. Michael Spraggins contributed to this story.**



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